

May 9, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman
The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Kevin Martin, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Clearance of Democratic Presidential Debate; MB Docket No. 02-277, MM
Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244; DA 01-1264¹

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

As you know, an ongoing issue in the broadcast ownership and NASA proceedings presently pending before the Commission involves the extent and nature of affiliate clearances and preemptions.

ABC would like to update the record with one recent example. As you know, last Saturday, ABC sponsored the first Democratic Presidential Debate. ABC gave its affiliates broad leeway in determining when to air the debate, permitting affiliates to air the debate anytime from 11:35pm ET on Saturday, May 3 through the morning of Sunday, May 4.

The final tally of clearance figures for the debate was that 54 out of 193 ABC affiliates broadcast the debate, in whatever time slot was selected by the affiliate consistent with our guidelines.² The 54 stations that aired the debate included *all* of ABC's 10 owned television stations.

I hope this information is helpful to your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Fox
Vice President, Government Relations
The Walt Disney Company

¹ This letter is being filed with the Secretary's Office as a permitted ex parte presentation in these proceedings.

² In addition, four ABC affiliates chose to air the debate on their same market owned or managed cable channel/ broadcast station in lieu of a clearance on their primary ABC affiliate.

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